THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 52 complaints have been received by D.D.A.

(c) Several complaints are received at various levels in DDA in which allegations about use of sub-standard materials in DDA construction are made. Complaints are received from the individuals and various Welfare Associations etc besides Chief Engineer (Quality Control) and the Chief Technical Examiner's organisation under the Chief Vigilance Commission On receipt of these complaints, Vigilance Department of DDA conducts investigation through its technical cell and if allegations appear to be correct, departmental action is taken, if warranted, after the investigations are completed by the Vigilance Cell.

Besides, generally materials conforming to CPWD specifications and the relevant ISI specifications are used in the works and sub-standard materials, if any, are generally removed from the site and are not allowed to be used since the sites are inspected by the field officers, Chief Engineer (Quality Control) and the Chief Technical Examiner. Remedial action is taken as per the observations made by the various inspecting agencies.

Death of Animals due to starvation in Gujarat

718. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated the 13th October, 1987 wherein it has been stated that Sheep and Goats were dying of starvation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of animals which died of starvation in Gujaraat during the last six months; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No report about death of animals due to starvation has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

Rate of Price Rise

719. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the rate of price rise of food stuffs during the period from January, 1985 to March, 1987; and

(b) what steps are taken by Government to prevent the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Percentage variation in the wholesale Price Indices of selected food stuff items during the period January, 1985 to March, 1987 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(b) The main thrust of Government's policy is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Import of some essential commodities are made to augment domestic supply. Export of certain essential commodities are banned or regulated. The Public Distribution System is being strengthened and expanded State Governments and UT Administrations have been urged, from time to time, to strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations